

THE COIN CIRCULAR.

VOL. I.

TITUSVILLE, PA., SEPTEMBER, 1875.

No. 7.

THE NOVICE.

No coin collector of any experience has failed to encounter the "novice" or "beginner" who is continually asking questions and is always ready to exhibit some faint illustration of a super-annuated cent which he estimates to be of great value on account of its worn and mutilated appearance. With him everything which *looks* old is old, and consequently must be of great value. He will show you an old copper cent with head, letters, date and everything else much the worse for circulation and tell you that he had the piece at a white heat, and could distinctly discern "1804" on it somewhere; of course we believe him because we cannot show any proofs to the contrary, and we merely remark that we would like to see it ourselves. He has erased the verd-antique from all his old coppers, in the hopes of finding "B. C." on some of them.

At first he makes the "cents" his pet theme, the dates are all he wants—good or bad condition, it makes no difference. Give him a "nine-eight" with everything worn off but the top of the "eight" and he will think himself possessed of a "ninety-nine", and will exhibit it as such by holding it in a certain position. Bright and uncirculated pieces he considers as imitations, and "would not have them in his collection"; fine medals have no attractions, but he pays some attention to foreign coppers, and his assortment of Canadian tokens and English pennies is quite extensive. Finally he makes a bold push into the American Colonial series, and after skirmishing for a month or so among the different varieties of Connecticuts, New Jerseys and Vermonts, he gets bewildered and finds himself beyond his depth, retards his progress and for a little while takes up store cards of which he gets a hundred and fifty varieties the first day; this is a little encouraging and he rests to contemplate his two month's "labor of love." He is generally a "beginner" for about two months, and if he has had much experience in that time his ideas of coin collecting will begin to have a wider range and he will form an attachment to the pursuit which will be of instruction and amusement.

There are some who are always "collecting" in some of the sciences, and will sometimes try coins with other hobbies; they will become interested at first and get up the usual excitement, but in a little while will recover and fall back on tomahawks and postage

stamps or some other light pastime better suited to their tastes.

We have all been "beginners" and we think from experience that this sketch is not greatly exaggerated.

COIN COUNTERFEITING.

The degree to which coin counterfeiting has been carried on lately shows a lack of vigilance of the government authorities appointed to ferret out this public evil, for nearly all the captures of the counterfeiters have not been made until an extensive circulation of the spurious had been effected. Since January, no less than twenty different organizations of coin counterfeiters have been detected in their traffic, and a large number of dies captured; fortunately a few of the dies were unused.

The *New York Times* of July 28th, thus describes the manner in which an important capture of trade dollar counterfeiters was made:

"About four months ago Messrs. Clarke & Sons, money brokers at Chatam and Chambers streets, informed E. B. Washburne, Chief of the United States Secret Service, that they had received, in the course of their business, a counterfeit of the new trade dollar. When the counterfeit was examined, it was found to be of the first class, being finely cut, with clear and sharp raised work and perfect size, weight and ring. The matter was placed in the hands of Operative Wm. W. Kenock, having charge of the New York District, and in a little time after, Messrs. Clarke & Sons handed the officers another counterfeit trade dollar which they had received, with a description of the man who had succeeded in passing it on them. Operative E. L. Drummond was placed on the case, and with Operative Kenock succeeded in learning that a gang of accomplished counterfeiters were engaged in making counterfeit trade dollars and half-dollar pieces. They also learned that the head of the gang was Jas. Maher, an Irishman, fifty years old, residing at 109th street and Second avenue. Drummond, disguised in rough wearing apparel, threw himself in Maher's way and succeeded in gaining his confidence. He learned from Maher that the latter was an old English counterfeiter, who had served one term of imprisonment in London, and a term of penal servitude in New South Wales. While in Australia Maher formed the ac-

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quaintance of a celebrated coiner who told him the secret of making the alloy with which he so cleverly counterfeits silver coin. Maher showed Drummond his dies and batteries, and exhibited the die of a counterfeit five-dollar gold piece which he was preparing to put in circulation. Then Maher introduced Drummond to a pupil of his, James McGrath, residing in Greenwich street, who was engaged manufacturing the counterfeit half-dollar pieces, and McGrath in his turn introduced the detective to Michael Tague and Michael Boyle, of Clarkson street, and Patrick McGuire, a noted counterfeiter, who were engaged in "shoving" or passing the base coins through the City. Drummond worked in with the gang, buying \$100 worth of the base trade dollars from Maher, \$50 worth of the counterfeit half dollars from McGrath, and received from Tague, Boyle and McGuire counterfeit half dollars to pass while in their company. To do this successfully Drummond provided himself with good half-dollar pieces which he circulated instead of the counterfeits given him by the coiners. Yesterday the trap was sprung on the gang. Tague was arrested at Bleecker and Macdougall streets, with a quantity of counterfeit coin in his possession, and Boyle was apprehended soon after at Houston and Mercer streets McGrath was arrested in Beach street near Hudson, and his dies and batteries were seized, with a large amount of base coin. Last night Maher was captured at One Hundred and Fourth street and Second avenue and in his house the officers found batteries and dies and a large amount of partly-finished counterfeit coin. McGuire has, up to the present, eluded arrest, but he will be captured to-day. The prisoners were locked up in Ludlow Street Jail last night. It is supposed that at least \$3,000 worth of the counterfeit coin has been passed in this City, and all victims are requested to be present at the arraignment of the counterfeiters in the United States Court this morning."

The officers of the Secret Service certainly deserve credit for the manner in which this case was worked up. Considerable quantities of counterfeit five-cent nickels are in circulation.

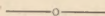
NUMISMA.

The Atlanta (Ga.) *Herald* has started an evening edition at three cents per copy, and thus describes some of the experiences sustained: "It was stated in the prospectus of that paper that change in coppers, would be given to all purchasers, as far as the specie resources of the city would admit. After a careful search of the town, we were unable to find over four dollars' worth of pennies in Atlanta. There is a volume of homily in this statement, and the consequences it carries. It is our opinion that a people that recognises no piece of money less than the nickel, can never know what true thriftiness and economy mean. For years we have been enjoining the people to the use of pennies and the various fractions of the nickel. We have now determined to purchase and bring here a large number of pennies, with which all the *Herald* newsboys will be supplied, and with which they will make change when a nickel is offered them for the evening paper. In this way we expect to gradually work the humble but useful cent into general circulation, and feel assured that it will be found, when they have become a usual machine of purchase, that three-fourths of the articles for which we now pay a nickel can be bought for a fractional part thereof.

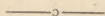
The Dundee *Advertiser* publishes an item of some interest to numismatologists. Having premised that money was once coined at Dundee, this journal states that the rarest specimen known of the local mint is a unique silver halfpenny of King Robert II. in very good preservation. It is the only one of that reign known to be in existence, and is further, the only still existing regal halfpenny coined at Dundee in any reign. The coin is not much larger than a herring scale, and only weighs seven grains.

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The collection of Mr. Regnault, consisting of 2 106 lots, will be sold at auction in Paris, on the 18th, 19th and 20th of October. A public exhibition of the coins and medals will be given on the day previous to the first day's sale. The English and Spanish series form a conspicuous part of this collection, but as the catalogues do not describe the condition of the pieces, we can not judge of their numismatic value. America is fairly represented but many of the pieces are improperly described; the Fugis copper is attributed to Massachusetts, the Washington 1791 cent to Kentucky the Washington token of 1783 to Maryland and many others are wrongly ascribed. The U. S. Mint series consists of 48 lots which are well worth the attention of American collectors. The catalogues of this sale were distributed by Mr. Hoffman, dealer in coins (33 quai Voltaire, Paris), who will receive bids from those unable to attend the sale. For a commission of ten per cent he warrants the authenticity of the medals.



Mr. F. Crossley suggests as the origin of the word humbug the Irish uim-bog, pronounced "um-bug", literally "soft copper," or "worthless money." James II. issued from the Dublin mint a mixture of lead, copper and brass so worthless that a sovereign was intrinsically worth only two pence, and might have been bought after the revolution for a half-penny. Sterling and umbug were therefore expressions of real and fictitious worth—merit and humbug. Mr. Crossley probably has reference to the *gun-money* of James II. which was stamped with the name of each month and date, and gradually decreased in value with each successive month.



Among the effects of the late C. F. Hall, of Croydon N. H., the appraisers had the satisfaction of handling, counting and computing the value of over three thousand pieces of silver coin, representing all denominations of value and all nationalities of coinage. It is evidently the accumulation of a life time.—*Pittsburgh Evening Telegraph*.



As the printing of the fifty-cent fractional notes has been discontinued for some time, we wonder if silver is to be substituted soon.



The Geographical Congress has awarded the medals of the first class to the Statistical Bureau at Washington, and Prof. Hyden.



Copies of Franklin's Continental Dollar have lately been struck in silver, copper and albitenum.

SEPTEMBER CATALOGUE OF COINS AND MEDALS,

—For Sale by—

GEORGE A. DILLINGHAM,

TITUSVILLE, PA.

	PRICE.
1793 Cent, Liberty cap, extra good,.....	\$12.00
1797 Cent, good,.....	1.00
1802 do extra good,.....	1.25
1803 do " ".....	1.25
1809 do good, fine date,.....	1.75
1819 do extra good,.....	.50
1830 do very good,.....	.50
1832 do " ".....	.30
1834 do " ".....	.30
1840 do large date, very good,.....	.35
1842 do very good,.....	.50
1857 do nickel, uncirculated,.....	.25
1858 do " ".....	.25
1860 do " ".....	.25
1861 do " ".....	.25
1875 Twenty-cent coin, nearly proof,.....	.40
Upper Canada Half Penny, Nova Scotia Head, good,.....	1.00
Geo. II Farthing, Hibernia, fine, 1760,.....	1.25
" III Two Penny, Copper, bright, 1797.....	2.50
" III Half Penny, fine and brig, 1799.....	.50
William IV. Half Penny, uncirculated, 1837.....	.50
" IV. Penny, fine, 1831,.....	.25
" IV. Farthing, uncirculated, 1831,.....	.30
Victoria Half Farthing, good, 1844.....	.30
" Model Crown,.....	.35
" " Half Farthing.....	.30
" " Quarter Farthing.....	.30

FOREIGN SILVER.

George II. Penny, extra good, 1746.....	.25
" II. Shilling, very fine, 1758.....	.60
Russia 15 Kop. uncirculated, 1861.....	.35
" 5 " proof, 1859.....	.30
John Frederick (Saxony) Crown, good, 1546.....	2.50
New Granada Dollar, good, 1819.....	2.00
Chili Dollar (Santiago), fine, 1833.....	2.00
" Twenty Cent, uncirculated.....	.50
" Two Real, fine, 1847.....	.50
Peru, Sol, Half and Fifth, quite uncirculated, '64 '58 and '63 respectively, for set.....	2.75

FINE MEDALS.

Masonic Temple, Phil'a., tin, 24.....	.25
Huskisson, bronze, 40.....	1.00
Alexander Herzen, bronze, 32.....	1.00
Centennial Art Gallery, W. M. 27.....	.50
Centennial. Genii of American Independence and Liberty, bronze, 36.....	2.00
Charles I., bronze, 32.....	1.00
Republic of France, '92, bronze, 32.....	1.25
Queen Anne, bronze, 26.....	1.25

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—NONE BUT NUMISMATIC ADVERTISEMENTS—
INSERTED IN THIS PAPER.

1776.

1876.

CENTENNIAL MEDALS,

Carved in Solid Walnut.

Small Medals 2 1/2 inches,

Large Medals, 3 inches

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Reverse of the four small medals consists of the words :

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